



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/030,818 Confirmation No. : 2416
First Named Inventor : Hans BRUDER
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TC/A.U. : 3679
Examiner : Victor L. MACARTHUR

Docket No. : 396/50809
Customer No. : 23911
Title : SUPPORTING PROFILE

Mail Stop Appeal Brief- Patents

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY BRIEF

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Answer dated November 23, 2004, Appellant is compelled to reply to the following erroneous points raised in the Answer:

Rejection of Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Monti (U.S. Patent 4,410,157)

In the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner makes several arguments in connection with this rejection. First, in response to Applicant's argument that Monti does not disclose a single supporting profile that *includes* components from two supporting members 14A and 14B, the Examiner argues that the limitation "includes" is not recited in the claim. The Examiner also argues that the limitation "belong to" is not synonymous with the word "comprising" and is not recited in the claim.

It appears to Applicant that a fundamental disagreement between Applicant and the Examiner is on the interpretation of Claim 10. Applicant believes that the term "comprising" in Claim 10 requires that a *single* supporting

Reply Brief
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